



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

July 5, 2012

Robert G. Trujillo, Forest Supervisor
3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Mr. Trujillo,

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The USFS proposes to authorize, under a new special use permit, the operation of four municipal supply water wells located on the Lincoln National Forest system lands in the North Fork Eagle Creek drainage.

EPA rates the DEIS as "LO" i.e., EPA has "not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantial changes to the proposal, and the DEIS adequately sets forth the environmental impacts of the alternatives." The EPA's Rating System Criteria can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/oecaerth/nepa/comments/ratings.html>.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office two copies of the FEIS, and an internet link, when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Our classification will be published on the EPA website, www.epa.gov, according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the CAA to inform the public of our views on the proposed Federal action. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Keith Hayden of my staff at hayden.keith@epa.gov or 214-665-2133 for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read "Rhonda Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Rhonda Smith
Chief
Office of Planning and Coordination